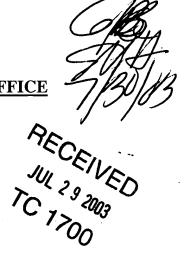


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re Patent Application of

HASEGAWA et al

Atty. Ref.: 1417-370

Serial No. 09/991,874

Group: 1754

Filed: November 26, 2001

Examiner: Lish

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING CARBON BLACK, AND

FURNACE COMBUSTION APPARATUS AND FURNACE COMBUSTION

METHOD

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July 25, 2003

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

AMENDMENT

Applicants hereby submit this in response to the Office Action mailed March 31, 2003 ("Office Action").

A response to the Office Action was originally due June 30, 2003. Applicants hereby petition for a one-month extension of time in which to submit a response or an amendment in response to the Office Action. The fee for a one-month extension of time is \$110 and a check in that amount is enclosed. Therefore, the deadline for responding to the Office Action is now July 30, 2003. Accordingly, this Amendment and Response is being timely filed.

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